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EDUCATION WEEK

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Senators Call For Reduced Control Over Indian Aid

Tribes Should Allocate U.S. Funds, Panel Says

By Peter West

WASHINGTON—In a blueprint for what it calls a "New Federalism for American Indians," a Senate panel has proposed the gradual reduction of federal oversight for Indian programs and the rechanneling of billions of dollars in aid directly to tribal governments.

The tribes, which would negotiate formal agreements with the United States, would then be free to allocate the money any way they wished—for increased education, health care, and other social services, or for new efforts to regenerate the faltering Native American economy.

"Paternalistic federal control over American Indians has created a federal bureaucracy ensnarled in red tape and riddled with fraud, mismangement, and waste," the bipartisan Special Committee on Investigations charged in a report issued Nov. 17.

The 238-page document reflects testimony given during a series of Congressional hearings and fact-finding trips that were part of a two-year probe. It chronicles a widespread pattern of political corruption and mismanagement on reservations that has included rampant, unreported child abuse at federally run Indian schools.

The report was released here at a press conference held by Senators Dennis Deconcini and John McCain, both of Arizona, and Senator Thomas A. Daschle of South Dakota.

The lawmakers blamed both the "benign neglect" of the Congress and denial of problems by federal agencies—particularly the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs—for the current state of unmet government responsibilities.

"In every area it touches," the report says, "the B.I.A. is plagued by mismanagement." This is so, it adds, despite many dedicated B.I.A. employees.

"The inability of so many good people to have a real impact," the document con-

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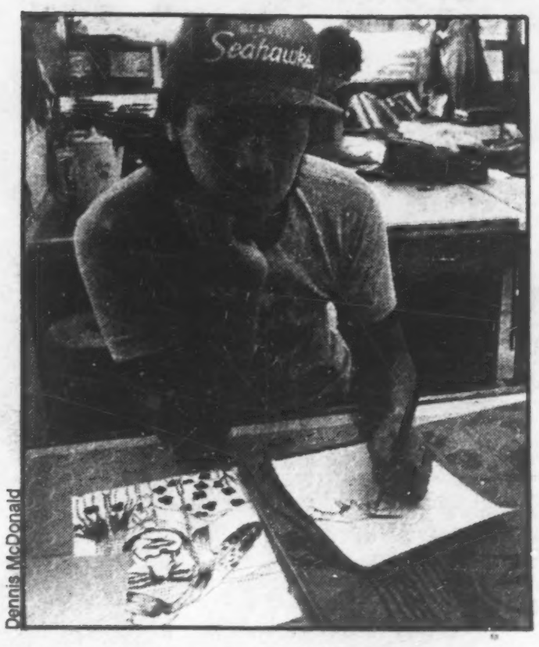
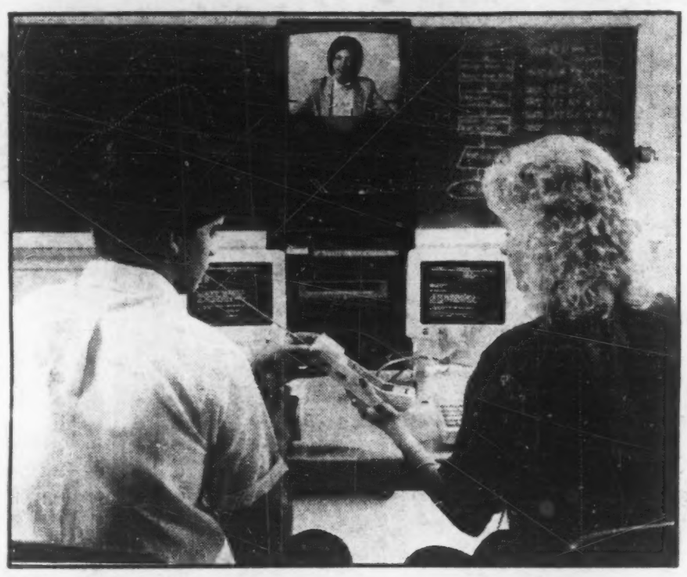


Dennis McDonald

Money for B.I.A.-controlled schools would be among the funding affected.

Schools' Interest in Learning by Satellite Surges



Students can use toll-free phone lines to talk to their TI-IN instructor or to their classmates across the country.

Seen as Vital Adjunct to Classroom Teaching

By Peter West

SAN ANTONIO—Three maps lining the walls of a small television control room here chart the rise of an educational phenomenon—an experimental state resource that grew into a national network for long-distance learning.

Patsy S. Tinsley, co-founder of what is now TI-IN Network Inc., the country's only for-profit purveyor of educational programming by satellite, admits that the venture "grew much faster than we ever dreamed it would."

The first of the maps, an outline of the state of Texas, proves her point. It shows the modest state of play in 1984, the year Ms. Tinsley and her partner borrowed $12 million to launch the Texas Interactive Instructional Network. Its mission was to beam courses developed by the Texas Education Agency into small, rural school districts unable to employ teachers in those subject areas.

Two years later, the company's name had been changed and its reach

Continued on Page 10

Alaska Governor's New Campaign: Endowment for His State's Schools

By Mark Walsh

Even though he is not running for reelection, Gov. Steve Cowper of Alaska is campaigning as hard as any candidate these days.

But instead of pursuing a second four-year term at the helm of the Last Frontier, Mr. Cowper is crusading for the creation of an educational endowment that, he argues, would provide a stable supply of money for Alaska's schools in the next century.

The oil royalties that currently provide most of the state government's revenues are already declining and cannot be counted on in the decades to come, he warns.

Mr. Cowper's solution is to set aside some of the earnings of the Alaska Permanent Fund—the massive account, currently worth $10.2 billion, that was established in 1976 with the state's first revenues from the the Prudhoe Bay oilfields—for a new Education Fund.

By the year 2000, he estimates, the Education Fund would be large enough to become a self-sustaining source of money for schools.

The 51-year-old Democrat's proposal has faced significant opposition in the state, however, from those who warn it could endanger the hefty earnings checks

Continued on Page 18

Researchers Propose National Curriculum To Ease Barriers Faced by Migrant Students

By Peter Schmidt

Policymakers should consider such measures as a national curriculum and high-school diploma for migrant students to help ease the unusual barriers to schooling such children face, a team of scholars recommends in a new report.

Financed by the U.S. Education Department, the report is based on a three-year ethnographic study of the children of migrant farm workers in nine states.

Drawing on thousands of hours of interviews with migrant families, the authors describe the existence of a "culture of migrancy" that "fosters its own continuance and is, in many ways, counterproductive to education."

"All migrant children are potential dropouts," the report concludes. "If children are needed in the fields for the family to survive, then that will take precedence over education or any other need the migrant child may have."

It notes that many migrant children drop out because they are enticed by the financial rewards of field work and discouraged by academic failure at school.

Among its other recommendations, the

Continued on Page 13

Board Reaffirms Plans To Reform Administration

By Ann Bradley

WASHINGTON—While acknowledging that some of its more controversial proposals may be modified, the National Policy Board for Educational Administration formally recommitted itself last week to the task of improving the preparation of school administrators.

The policy board encountered sharp criticism last spring when it released a report calling for an overhaul of how school administrators are recruited, trained, and certified.

At a meeting here last week, the policy board decided to incorporate as an independent organization under the leadership of Scott D. Thomson, the outgoing executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Mr. Thomson will assume his new duties March 1.

He replaces David L. Clark, a professor of education at the University of Virginia, who resigned last week as the board's executive secretary, effective Dec. 31.

"I am optimistic that we're on track and we will be a major player in the field of school administration and school leadership," Mr. Thomson said.

The policy board, which was formed in January 1988, is made up of representatives of 10 major national education associations. Its initial report, "Improving the Preparation of School Administrators: An

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Also in the news

5 **Seeking 'Radical Solutions'**
The idea of creating separate school programs for young black males gains currency.

8 **Altered Bilingual Rules**
Teacher shortages have led New Jersey to lift a stringent proficiency requirement.

19 **Budget Compromise**
Gramm-Rudman cuts are restored, but 'partial sequester' sets a precedent.

IN SUMMARY

Reporting Sexual Conduct
Under a local interpretation of a new state child-abuse law, teachers in the Mesa, Ariz., school district have been told to report to police all suspected sexual activity among their students. **Page 4.**

L.A. School Goes Home
Los Angeles school officials have announced plans to set up a satellite school in a housing project plagued by gang violence so that students will not have to cross gang "turf" to get to school. **Page 4.**

A 'Gulf' in History
Historians last week were urged to "bridge the gulf" between precollegiate and college-level instruction as a first step to achieving the reforms set forth in two recent major reports. **Page 5.**

Guaranteeing Children's Rights
The United Nations General Assembly last week adopted a unique international pact that seeks to guarantee specific rights for children, including the right to an education. **Page 6.**

Guidelines Voided
The California Board of Education violated state law by adopting textbook-selection guidelines without going through an administrative review, a judge has ruled. **Page 14.**

Teenagers and Abortion
The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments this week in two cases involving adolescents' access to abortion—an issue on which action is increasing at the state level. **Page 17.**

A Japanese Critique
In an unusual critique of an ally's shortcomings, Japanese officials are telling the Bush Administration that one way to improve American industrial competitiveness is to improve schools. **Page 20.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Young People Poorly Schooled In Citizenship, Report Says

Young Americans are ill-prepared to keep democracy alive in the next decade and beyond, largely because schools and parents have failed to instill values in them, a new study contends.

A survey of students and teachers released last week by the lobbying group People for the American Way shows that, while youths today appreciate the democratic freedoms of America, they fail to understand their responsibility to participate in self-government.

According to the survey—which included responses from 1,106 youths ages 15 to 25 and 405 social-studies teachers—young people are more concerned with their own well-being than with their communities.

Asked to grade the importance of life goals, the students gave their highest rankings to "career success" (72 percent), "having a close-knit family life" (68 percent), and "enjoying life and having a good time" (56 percent).

Sixty percent of the students surveyed said they knew "just some" or "very little" about the governmental process. Another 57 percent said they had some or little interest in following the news. Seventy percent said they thought politics was too complicated to follow.

Thirty-seven percent of the teachers surveyed thought today's students had less potential for good citizenship than did students 10 years ago, and 75 percent agreed that students are less involved than earlier generations in politics and their communities.

However, 74 percent of the teachers and 51 percent of students said they support the idea of schools making some sort of community service a requirement for graduation.

At a press conference last week, Arthur Kropp, president of People for the American Way, called on schools, parents, and politicians to step up efforts to encourage civic involvement among the young.

STATES

Christian Schools Plan To Defy Mich. Court Order on Certification

A group of Christian schools in Michigan will continue to refuse to provide information to the state about teacher certification, even though a state judge has dismissed its lawsuit challenging the reporting requirements.

On Nov. 13, State Circuit Court Judge James Giddings of Ingham County granted the state's request to dismiss the lawsuit by four church schools on the grounds that a 1986 ruling in another case had already decided the issue.

That decision upheld a state requirement that all schools in the state employ certified teachers. The Christian schools fear the reports will be used to close schools that do not comply with the state requirements.

Robert E. Baldwin, director of governmental affairs for the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, said the schools "will explore every legal remedy" in their battle against the state, including an appeal of the judge's ruling.

Church officials contend that the schools are an extension of their ministries, and that submitting to state requirements on teacher certification would give authorities "veto power" over the church's work, officials said.

Only four schools were named in the lawsuit, but some 200 schools withheld the required annual report to the state on the number of students, courses taught, and qualifications of teachers, Mr. Baldwin said.

In the wake of the judge's dismissal of the suit, some of those schools are expected to comply with the state reporting requirement. But as many as 175 schools may continue to withhold the information, Mr. Baldwin said, even if it means the state closes the schools and jails church and school officials.

State education-department officials have begun administrative proceedings against nine schools, but none has reached a conclusion, he said.

■ **Gov. Joe Frank Harris of Georgia has announced plans to create a state-run Children's Training Academy to teach public and private officials to work with abused and troubled youths.**

The proposed academy, which would be funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and by the state, would train more than 4,000 professionals a year in how to recognize child abuse and how to work with abused children.

The training program, which would be voluntary, would be targeted to day-care workers, child-welfare workers, public-health nurses, mental-health staff members, law-enforcement officers, and public prosecutors and judges, according to a spokesman for the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

It would also be open to other professionals, including teachers, an aide to the Governor said.

Earlier this month, a Governor's task force issued a report stating that the child-welfare system in the state has failed abused children, in part because of lack of training among caseworkers and others.

After examining the files of 51 children who died last year while under state protection, the task force concluded that four died

'Read 'Em' and Rock

To teach New Jersey students about the hazards posed by dangerous chemical substances, officials have decided to take a few lessons from Madonna and Michael Jackson.

A music video, starring 30 high-school students and a professional band that croons safety messages, will be distributed to all the state's high schools by the end of the year.

The video, which was sponsored by the pharmaceutical companies CIBA-GEIGY Corporation and Merck and Company, was filmed at John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson. Interspersed between scenes showing the students properly handling chemicals in science classes and at home, the band sings such lyrics as:

"Read 'em, read 'em, read the labels"
"Read 'em, read 'em, read the labels"
"Caution, caution, danger, warning!"
"Read 'em, watch out, be careful now."

The video is the brainchild of officials at CIBA-GEIGY. An executive of that firm sits on the board of the state Right-to-Know Advisory Council, which is appointed by the governor. When the council last year decided to launch an initiative to teach high-school students about the hazards associated with common substances, the firm agreed to produce educational materials.

Nancy Ori, a media specialist at the firm who acted as the video's executive producer, says students found an initial video on hazardous materials "dumb." She then revised her strategy and decided to use the student-actors and the rock band.

"I really like the concept of kids talking to kids," Ms. Ori explains.

In addition to getting the consent of the local school board, Ms. Ori says she also had to persuade about 70 students to build and tear down the film sets for the video, which is formally titled "Corrosives."

"Protect yourself" is the theme of a musical video designed to teach New Jersey students about hazardous substances.

Ms. Ori says about five additional videos on hazardous substances will probably be made. The next one, she says, will be about solvents, and future videos will tackle ignitable and reactive toxic substances.

Since 1983, the state has had a right-to-know law for workers. Last year, state lawmakers amended the Worker and Community Right-to-Know Law to require educational institutions to offer curriculum guidelines and materials on chemicals in the workplace and provide instruction on how to handle them.

—E.F.

WASHINGTON

Congress Wraps Up Work on 1990 Education Budget

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—In a session that stretched into the wee hours of Nov. 22, the Congress approved a budget-reconciliation package that would restore most of the automatic cuts made last month under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law.

Also last week, the Congress cleared and President Bush signed a final version of H R 3566, an appropriations bill that provides the Education Department with $24.15 billion for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Other bills will provide the department with an additional $257 million for Indian-education and drug-education programs.

The $24.4-billion education budget, however, will be reduced somewhat under the sequester provisions of the the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law. Those provisions would remain in effect through the first week of February under the budget-reconciliation agreement, HR 3299.

The House passed the reconciliation bill by a vote of 272 to 128, and the Senate approved it on a voice vote.

President Bush had threatened to veto a bill that did not leave intact the automatic spending cuts that were forced by the deficit-reduction law. Administration officials, however, helped negotiate the compromise measure, and the President is expected to sign it.

The Education Department would have lost about $1 billion, and subsidies for the Stafford Student Loan program would have been reduced if the automatic budget cuts had remained in full effect.

Congressional aides estimated that the partial budget cuts included in the compromise measure would trim spending by 1.4 percent for all education programs except Stafford Loans and vocational-rehabilitation grants,

> Most of cuts made under deficit-reduction law are restored.

which are entitlements, paring about $300 million to $350 million from the E.D. budget. The loan-subsidy reduction would also remain in effect for several months.

Funding for the Chapter 1 compensatory-education program, for example, would have been slashed by about $210 million under a full sequester. The reconciliation bill, in contrast, would shave only $60 million from the $4.5 billion allotted for the program under the appropriations bill.

Full Effect Unknown

Aides and lobbyists added, however, that the impact of the compromise measure on other programs will not be known until official budget figures are released, probably this week.

They noted that the sequester process treats some programs differently than others, that the Office of Management and Budget has some leeway in applying the process, and that a partial sequester has never been implemented before, making it impossible to assess definitively the effects on specific programs.

Some protection is provided for programs whose funding would be cut below the "baseline" of 1989 spending levels adjusted for inflation, but some programs could still end up with less to spend than in 1989.

Lobbyists Disappointed

Education lobbyists, who were delighted with the $1.7-billion funding hike that appropriators sought for education, were disappointed with the final result.

Susan Frost, executive director of the Committee for Education Funding, acknowledged that the Education Department would still receive an increase of about $1.4 billion over last year's spending level. But, she added, "at the same time there will be 100,000 children who would have received Chapter 1 services under the appropriations bill who won't have them because of this abdication of responsibility."

In a letter sent to every member of the Congress last week, the C.E.F. contended that a partial sequester would eliminate Pell Grants for 30,000 college students and "deprive" 6,500 preschoolers of services under the Head Start program. The organization's letter unsuccessfully urged lawmakers to vote against the reconciliation bill and to return in December to consider "a better range of choices."

Ms. Frost said the decision to keep the automatic budget cuts partially intact will set a precedent, providing lawmakers a "third option" when they cannot agree on a reconciliation package but do not want to accept the full impact of Gramm-Rudman cuts.

"What the disaster is, first and foremost, is that they have set a very dangerous precedent that when they can't meet deficit targets through the reconciliation process, they shift to the appropriations accounts and cut those," Ms. Frost said.

"I think if Congress had to make a decision and vote on these cuts in education programs, they never would have done it," she said. "The problem is that they have shifted everything to this mindless process."

The spending cuts retained in the reconciliation bill would trim the federal budget by only $4.6 billion, far short of the $14.7-billion cut called for under the Gramm-Rudman law. Most of the remaining budget savings would come from a potpourri of legislative changes, tax adjustments, and bookkeeping maneuvers. Some of the savings would come from student-aid programs. *(See Education Week, Nov. 22, 1989.)*

Auditors Cite Alarming Rise In Child-Labor Violations

By Reagan Walker

WASHINGTON—Violations of child-labor laws have increased at an alarming rate during the past six years, an analyst with the General Accounting Office last week told participants at a conference focusing on the exploitation of child workers.

William J. Gainer, the G.A.O.'s director of education and employment issues, said data from the Department of Labor indicate that the number of youths under age 18 working in violation of child-labor laws has increased by 150 percent since 1983.

The actual number of children working illegally may be even higher, added Mr. Gainer, who based his remarks on findings contained in two previously published G.A.O. reports as well as in a third report to be released later this year.

Violations 'Growing Rapidly'

"No one knows exactly how many of our nation's reported 4 million young workers are employed in sweatshops or other businesses that exploit minors," he said. "But we do know that the number of detected child-labor violations is growing rapidly."

Mr. Gainer's remarks came during a forum on child-labor problems in both the United States and abroad. The forum was sponsored by the Congressional Working Group on International Labor Rights.

The new G.A.O. report relies on data from the Labor Department's wage and hour division and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as on interviews with more than 100 federal and state officials responsible for enforcing laws that govern working conditions.

Records of federal wage and hour violations show that the number of youths under age 18 working in violation of child-labor laws has increased from 9,000 in fiscal 1983 to 22,500 in fiscal 1989.

Types of Violations

Generally, child-labor violations are divided into three types:

- Scheduling employees under age 16 to work in violation of restrictions on when and how much time they can work.
- Employing workers under the minimum employment age, which is generally 14.
- Allowing minors to work in jobs, or with certain equipment, considered by the Labor Department to be unsafe for young workers.

Retail Trade Most Cited

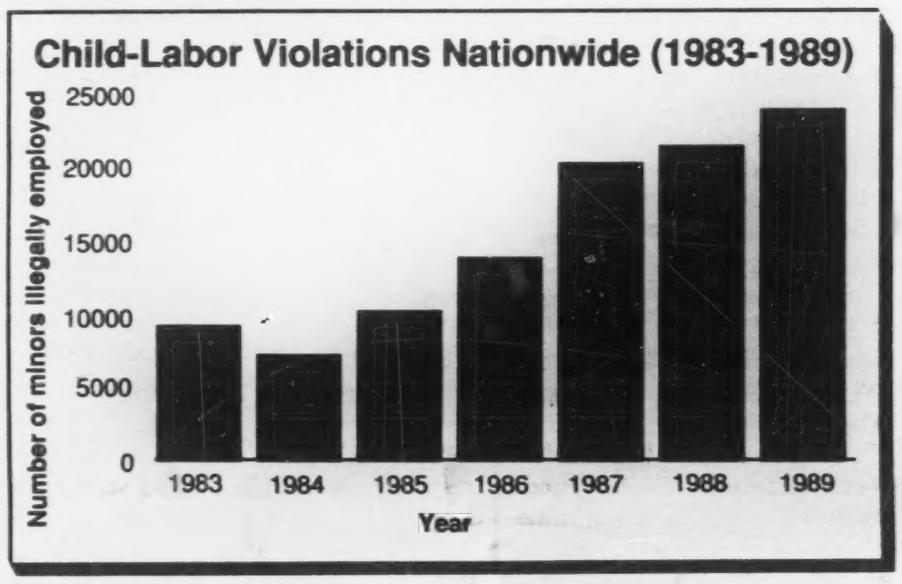
Of the violations recorded in fiscal 1989, 15,523 were related to work hours, 6,542 were instances in which workers under age 18 operated hazardous equipment, and the rest were related to the employment of under-age workers.

The retail-trade industry was the sector most often cited for violations during the 1987 and 1988 fiscal years, followed by the manufacturing and service industries.

Grocery stores and fast-food chains are the largest employers of minors, Mr. Gainer said, adding that these businesses' hours often extend beyond those allowed for children under 16.

Grocery stores and fast-food chains were most likely to commit violations related to hazardous equipment, allowing young workers to operate paper-bailing machines, trash compactors, and meat slicers.

During the 1987 and 1988 fiscal years, OSHA statistics show that 59 youths were killed in workplace accidents. Mr. Gainer said 37 of the 59 employers were fined a total of $27,364, for an average penalty of $740.



SOURCE: General Accounting Office

SOURCE: General Accounting Office

FEDERAL FILE

A strong denial ■ Pet projects

Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos said last week that he was at a loss to explain the persistence of rumors of his imminent departure from the Cabinet.

Apparently fed up with the gossip, the Secretary gave an uncharacteristically vehement response when a reporter raised the issue after a meeting on the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

"I wish to hell we could put it to bed," Mr. Cavazos said.

"I've had just a marvelous working relationship with the President," he said, adding that Mr. Bush "has never raised" the idea of an early departure.

Rumors aired in the national press and whispered among Washington observers have had Mr. Cavazos being replaced by someone with a higher profile.

"People often ask me the question about my own personal style," said Mr. Cavazos, a former president of Texas Tech University. "It's sort of hard for me to change my style. But think about higher education. . . . It's a system of people coming together, of people building coalitions."

"People say, 'You don't pound on the table enough,' " the Secretary continued. "I can't think of anything in academia that has been moved ahead by pounding on tables."

■

Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum, ranking Republican on the Senate education subcommittee, opposes federal funding of a national board to set standards for the teaching profession.

But she apparently supports funding of a museum to honor teachers—especially if it's in her home state of Kansas.

When legislation authorizing $1 million in scholarships to send hearing-impaired students to Washington for seminars came up on the Senate floor, Ms. Kassebaum cosponsored an amendment that added a $3-million authorization for a "National Teachers Hall of Fame," to be located at Emporia State University.

She was not the only senator to add a pet project to the bill.

The amendment's other sponsor was Senator Claiborne Pell, the Rhode Island Democrat who chairs the subcommittee. The measure would also authorize $5-million for the Narragansett Bay Center for the Study of Coastal Ecosystems at the University of Rhode Island.

In addition, it called for a total of $17.2 million in aid for assorted libraries, museums, and research projects in four other states.

If the provisions survive the legislative process, their sponsors would still have to fight for funding in next year's appropriations cycle.

—M.W. & J.M.

1987-88 Federal Election Contributions: The N.E.A. Ranks 4th; the A.F.T., 28th

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The National Education Association's political-action committee gave $2.1 million to candidates for federal office during the 1987-88 election cycle, retaining its status as one of the nation's most powerful PACs, according to the Federal Election Commission's final report on the campaign.

NEA-PAC's contributions were exceeded only by those affiliated with realtors, the American Medical Association, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The American Federation of Teachers ranked 28th among PACs, with total contributions of $865,063.

The two unions rank significantly lower—10th and 42nd, respectively—when PACs are categorized according to gross receipts, and fall into similar positions when they are ranked by total expenditures.

That is because the teachers' unions give most of their money directly to candidates. PACs that are not affiliated with other groups spend more money on operating expenses, and some other top PACs spend a substantial amount on their own political activities, such as advertising and direct-mail campaigns.

The N.E.A. raised a total of $3.8 million and spent $3.6 million in the last election cycle. The A.F.T., which had cash on hand at the start of 1987, raised $1.5 million and spent $1.6 million.

Democrats Favored

Both teachers' unions gave an overwhelming proportion of their contributions to Democratic candidates.

The N.E.A. gave $120,276 to 28 Republicans, while the A.F.T. donated $20,950 to four G.O.P. candidates, all of whom received relatively large contributions from the N.E.A. as well: Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania; former Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut, who lost a close race; James Jeffords of Vermont, who moved from the House to the Senate; and Representative Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island.

Aid to Groups

In addition to their direct contributions to candidates, the N.E.A. gave about $450,000 and the A.F.T. about $120,000 to Democratic Party organizations and private groups that support Democratic candidates, according to F.E.C. records.

The N.E.A. and A.F.T. also donated about $600,000 and $140,000, respectively, to state Democratic organizations, including a $380,000 contribution by the N.E.A. to the West Virginia Democratic Party. In contrast, the N.E.A. gave only $15,000 to Republican groups, and the A.F.T. gave them nothing.

NEA-PAC gave more than $100,000 to a variety of independent PACs, almost all of which support liberal causes. Several, for example, support women candidates. Others include the Vietnam Veterans PAC, the Hollywood Women's PAC, and the U.S. Committee Against Nuclear War.

The union also contributed to Class-PAC, which is affiliated with an organization of nonprofessional school employees.

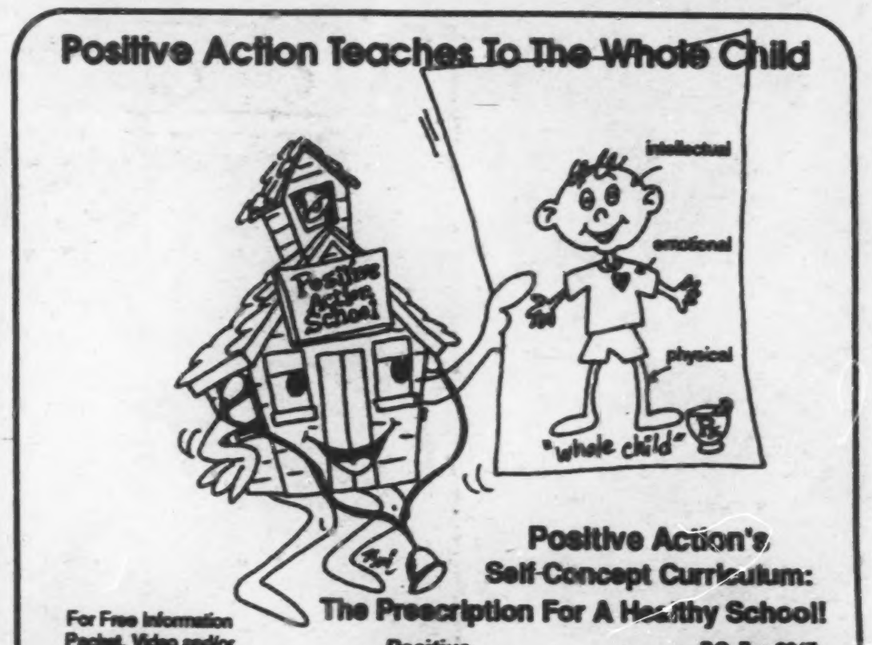
The N.E.A. does this in part to funnel more money indirectly to candidates to whom the union has already given the maximum amount of $5,000 per election, said Sally Potter, counsel to the N.E.A.'s government-relations office. In addition, she said, contributing to other PACs helps "raise the visibility" of political viewpoints the union endorses.

The A.F.T., meanwhile, made contributions to Class-PAC and to the PAC run by the A.F.L.-C.I.O., which received $275,000.

Top Contributors to Federal Candidates, 1987-88

1. Realtors Political Action Committee	$3,045,769
2. Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education Committee (Teamsters union)	2,885,224
3. American Medical Association Political Action Committee	2,315,646
4. National Education Association Political Action Committee	2,194,699
5. National Association of Retired Federal Employees Political Action Committee	1,974,850
6. United Auto Workers Voluntary Community Action Program	1,963,099
7. Association of Trial Lawyers of America Political Action Committee	1,919,558
8. Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education	1,732,482
9. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—PEOPLE, Qualified	1,658,386
10. Machinists Non-Partisan Political League	1,492,760
28. American Federation of Teachers Committee on Political Education	865,063

SOURCE: Federal Election Commission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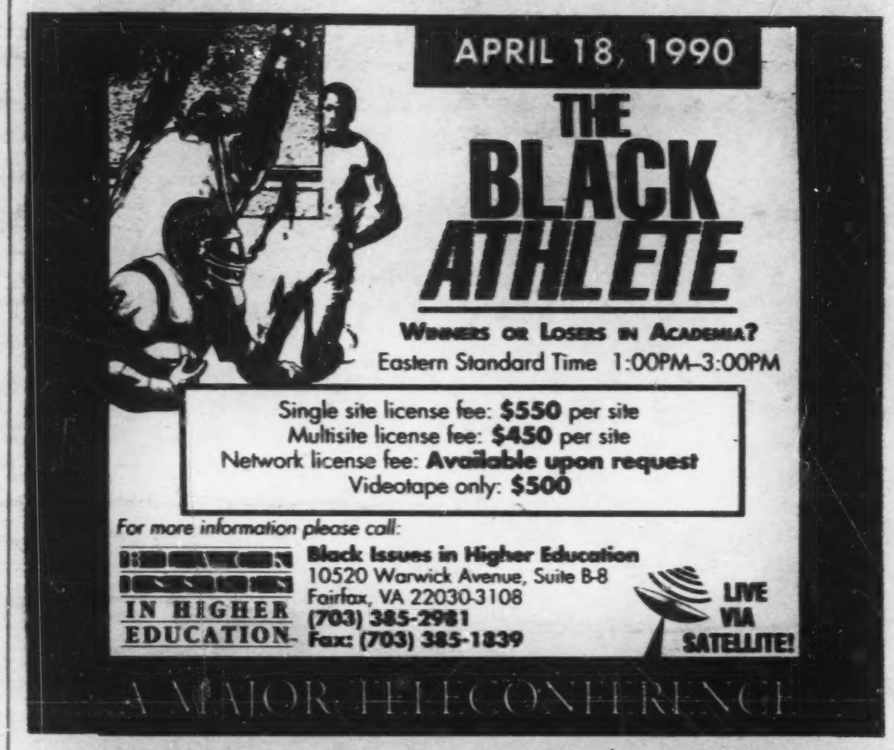
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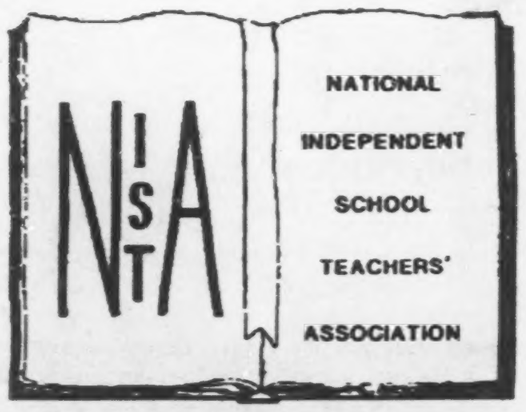

Independent Education for the 21st Century

1st Annual National Conference

June 28 - July 1, 1990 Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas

Dr. Charles J. O'Malley, Executive Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education for Private Education, will be our keynote speaker.

Contact: Warren J. Blackstone
P.O. Box 331232
Fort Worth, Texas 76163
1-800-562-9570

CAPITAL DIGEST

Service Easing Access To ERIC System Begins

The newest component of the federal Educational Resources Information Center network, ACCESS ERIC, is now in operation.

The new service is designed to help people, particularly new or inexperienced users, benefit from the ERIC system, which includes 16 subject-area clearinghouses and a database containing more than 650,000 documents.

In June, the Education Department awarded Aspen Systems Corporation of Rockville, Md., a three-year contract, which could be worth more than $1.2 million, to operate ACCESS ERIC.

The company was to develop a smaller database that would direct users to information in the ERIC system, as well as to other research.

The firm has established a toll-free number, (800) USE-ERIC, for users who do not have computers, need assistance, or would like to order publications.

In addition, ACCESS ERIC will work to publicize the resources available through the information system, and will publish a periodical announcing new publications and research available through the database.

■ The Senate has passed a measure reauthorizing the discretionary programs funded under the Education of the Handicapped Act through 1994.

Easily approved on Nov. 16, the bill makes modest changes in current special-education law. It authorizes $212.7 million for a range of programs, including some stepped-up efforts to: stem personnel shortages in the field, better serve emotionally disturbed children, and improve the system for disseminating special-education research.

Leaders of the House Select Education Subcommittee have been working to reconcile two draft versions of the bill.

■ President Bush's Education Policy Advisory Committee devoted some of its first meeting, held last week, to discussing the setting of national educational goals.

Participants at the Nov. 21 meeting said that, rather than concentrate on producing a formal written report, the group will focus its initial meetings on formulating educational goals for recommendation to the President. The council's nearly three-hour session was followed by a brief visit with Mr. Bush.

The 23-member council was appointed by Mr. Bush this month. *(See Education Week, Nov. 8, 1989.)*

The group's will discuss literacy at its January meeting.

CAPITAL UPDATE

Capital Update tracks the movement of legislation, the introduction of notable bills, and routine regulatory announcements.

Legislative Action

Civil Rights Commission
H R 3532

The Congress Nov. 17 cleared a bill extending the Commission on Civil Rights through Sept. 30, 1991.

Drug-Free Schools
H R 3614

The House and Senate last week approved legislation expanding federal drug-education programs and requiring schools to establish anti-drug policies to receive federal funds. *(See page 20.)*

Education Budget, Fiscal 1990
Deficit Reduction
H R 3566, H R 3299

The Congress last week gave final approval to a bill making appropriations for the Education Department, and to a measure trimming the budget to meet deficit-reduction targets. *(See page 19.)*

Education of the Handicapped
S 1824

The Senate last week passed a bill reauthorizing discretionary programs of the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Taft Institute
S 1939

The Senate last week passed a bill authorizing funds for the Taft Institute, which holds seminars on American government for precollegiate educators.